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COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 3 November 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the attached statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia on 2 November 1995 regarding the nuclear test by France in the South Pacific on 28 October 1995.

I would be grateful if the attached statement be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 65 and 70.

(Signed) S. THANARAJASINGAM
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Malaysia
to the United Nations

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Annex

STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA DATED 2 NOVEMBER 1995 ON THE NUCLEAR TEST BY FRANCE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC ON 28 OCTOBER 1995

Malaysia condemns the nuclear test by France at the Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific on 28 October 1995. It is outrageous that, in the face of the overwhelming international opposition and widespread protests against the resumption of these tests, France deemed it fit to detonate, yet again, another nuclear device - its third in two months. The conduct of these nuclear tests in quick succession makes a mockery of France's commitment to the exercise of "utmost restraint" that it had solemnly entered into during the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

France recently announced that it would sign the Protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty. Malaysia welcomes this positive policy change by France as it is consistent with Malaysia's own position in support of the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world. However, this latest nuclear test raises the question of the seriousness of France's commitment to nuclear disarmament and the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.

Malaysia calls upon France to desist forthwith from conducting further nuclear tests, thereby demonstrating its serious intention to sign the Protocols to the Roratonga Treaty. Malaysia also urges France to live up to its commitment to work towards nuclear disarmament and to contribute positively in the international disarmament efforts aimed at realizing the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Malaysia reiterates its strong opposition not only to nuclear testing by the nuclear-weapon States but also to their continued possession of these weapons of mass destruction and calls upon them to show stronger commitment to the goals of nuclear disarmament and the ultimate elimination of these weapons through a programmed reduction and elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

Appendix

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE MALAYSIAN POLITICAL PARTIES ON 26 OCTOBER 1995 IN KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysian political parties, representing political opinions of all sections of the people of Malaysia, both from the Government side and from the opposition, represented by their Presidents or Chairman or their representatives, meeting on 26 October 1995, on the 39th floor of Menara Dato' Onn, Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, concerned over the effect of the testing of nuclear devices by the French Government in the South Pacific, unanimously agreed to adopt the following resolution:

1. Strongly condemn the French Government for the resumption of nuclear tests in the South Pacific in the face of world-wide protests as an immoral and highly irresponsible act not only against the people in the South Pacific region but also against humanity;

2. Strongly demand that all nuclear Powers given their solemn pledge to cease forthwith and completely any nuclear test and to respect the current moratorium on nuclear-weapons testing, pending the signing of the comprehensive test-ban treaty in 1996;

3. Appeal strongly to the peoples of the world, and in particular the citizens of nations with nuclear weapons, to condemn the production and testing of nuclear devices so as not to undermine the current international efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;

4. Demand in the strongest terms that the French Government apologize unreservedly to the peoples of the South Pacific and compensate them financially for its actions in adversely affecting or destroying their natural environment and to heed the overwhelming opposition and widespread protests of the international community;

5. Demand that the French Government set up a fund under the auspices of the United Nations to finance the rehabilitation of the peoples of the South Pacific whose lives have been adversely affected or endangered by the effects of the nuclear tests.